

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A method of acquiring a signal code, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a signal from a first transceiver at a second transceiver;

as part of the acquisition, correlating the signal with a first code sequence having a first code rate and achieving a timing lock as said first code rate;

transmitting, in response to the step of correlating the signal with said first code sequence, an acknowledgement from said second transceiver of the signal to said first transceiver of the signal; and

changing, at said first and second transceivers, in response to the step of correlating the signal with the first code sequence, to a second code sequence having a second code rate that is higher than said first code rate; and

maintaining the timing lock while said first and second multi-rate generators shift to the second code sequence.

2. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1 wherein the first and second code sequences comprise a pseudo-noise (PN) code sequence.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) A method as in claim 1 wherein the step of changing to the second code sequence comprises the steps of:

tracking the first code sequence of the signal in the second transceiver ;

changing the first code sequence of the signal of a first code generator of the first transceiver to the second code sequence; and

changing the first code sequence of the signal of a second code generator of the second transceiver to the second code sequence.

5. (previously presented) A method as in claim 4 wherein the step of changing the first code sequence to the second code sequence in said first and second transceivers is in response to the occurrence of a predetermined event.

6. (currently amended) A signal code acquisition system comprising:

a first transceiver;

a first multi-rate code generator connected to the first transceiver for generating a first coded sequence having a first code rate;

a second transceiver responsive to the first transceiver for acquiring said first coded sequence at said first code rate;

a second multi-rate code generator connected to the second transceiver; and

control circuits for, as part of the acquisition, and correlating of the signal with the first code sequence, having the first code rate and achieving a timing lock at said first code rate; and

wherein said control circuits ~~change-cause~~ said first and second multi-rate code generators, at said first and second transceivers, to shift to a second code sequence having a second code rate that is higher than said first code rate, said control circuits further having means to maintain the timing lock while said first and second multi-rate generators shift to the second code sequence.

7. (previously presented) A signal code acquisition system as in claim 6 wherein the first and second multi-rate code generators comprise a pseudo-noise (PN) code generator.

8-10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) A signal code acquisition system as in claim 6 wherein the first and second multi-rate code generators comprise dual rate code generators.

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) A method of determining a coded signal, the method comprising steps of:

transmitting a first coded signal having a first code rate from a transmitter system;

acquiring the first coded signal on a receiver system;

as part of the acquisition, correlating the signal with a first code sequence having a first code rate and achieving a timing lock as said first code rate;

calculating a probability of detection of the first coded signal; and

changing the first coded signal to a second coded signal having a second code rate that is higher than said first rate, in response to the probability of detection (PD) of the first coded signal exceeding a predetermined amount.

14. (original) A method as in claim 13, wherein the coded signals comprise pseudo-noise (PN) coded signals.

15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) A method as in claim 13 wherein the step of changing the first coded signal to a second coded signal comprises the steps of:

waiting a predetermined amount of time;

changing a first pseudo-noise (PN) code of the receiver system to a second PN code after the predetermined amount of time has elapsed; and

changing a second PN code of the transmitting system to a second PN code after the predetermined amount of time has elapsed.

17. (previously presented) A method as in claim 16 wherein the changing of the first and second codes occurs contemporaneously.

18. (previously presented) A method, according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

calculating a probability of detection of the signal having said first code sequence; and

changing the signal to a second code sequence responsive to the probability of detection (PD) of the first coded signal exceeding a predetermined amount.